

What is claimed:

1. A consumer electronics device having media supervision enforcement circuitry for supervising personal exposure to user discernible information, comprising:
  - 5 a first logic unit configured for generating viewer indicators indicative of viewers present in a viewing area;  
non-volatile memory configured for receiving viewing profiles for selected viewers;  
a second logic unit coupled to the first logic unit and the non-volatile memory and being configured for comparing a viewer indicator with viewing profiles to identify an active viewing  
10 profile and a content-based indicator with the active viewing profile, the second logic unit being further configured for generating a control signal in response to the comparison between the content-based indicator and the viewing profiles; and  
a signal impairment mechanism coupled to the logic unit and configured for, based on the control signal, selectively passing a program signal therethrough without substantial impairment  
15 or passing the program signal therethrough with substantial impairment.
2. The consumer electronics device of claim 1 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer specification;
3. The consumer electronics device of claim 2, further comprising an output device  
20 coupled to the signal impairment mechanism for transforming the program signal into the user discernible information.
4. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.
- 25 5. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specification and associated content-based specifications.
6. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the program signal carries the content-based indicator, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic  
30 unit for extracting the content-based indicator.

7. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the signal impairment device is a switch.

8. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the output device is a television system audio/video output device.

5 9. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the first logic unit is a computer configured to run facial recognition software.

10. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, further comprising a camera coupled to the first logic unit and configured to continuously scan the viewing area associated with the consumer electronic device.

10 11. The consumer electronics device of claim 1 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification, a finite time range specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer and time range specifications.

12. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer, time range and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.

13. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specification and associated time range and content-based specifications.

14. The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the program signal carries the content-based indicator and timing information, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator and timing information.

15. A recordable medium comprising:  
a computer program comprising steps for:  
25 receiving a program signal suitable for conversion by a consumer electronics device into user discernible information;

receiving a content-based indicator indicative of the content of the user discernible information;

receiving a viewer indicator indicative of a viewer present in a viewer area;

30 selecting a viewer specification associated with the viewer indicator;

selecting a content-based specification associated with the selected viewer specification;  
comparing the selected content-based specification with received content-based  
indicator; and

generating a control signal based on the comparison between the selected content-based  
5 specification and the received content-based indicator.

16. The recordable medium of claim 15, wherein each of the received content-based  
indicator and the selected content-based specification is a rating.

17. The recordable medium of claim 16, wherein the control signal is generated if the  
received content-based rating exceeds the selected content-based rating.

10 18. The recordable medium of claim 15, wherein each of the received content-based  
indicators and the selected content-based specifications is a subject matter category.

19. The recordable medium of claim 18, wherein the control signal is generated if the  
received content-based category matches the selected content-based category.

20. The recordable medium of claim 15, wherein the control signal is generated to  
15 impair the program signal.

21. The recordable medium of claim 15, wherein the computer program further  
comprises the steps of

receiving timing information indicative of a reference time;

selecting a finite time range specification associated with the timing information;

20 selecting a content-based specification associated with the selected viewer and time  
range specifications.

22. A device having comprising:

a viewer monitoring system;

non-volatile memory for receiving viewing profiles of selected viewers;

25 a logic unit coupled to the viewer monitoring system and the non-volatile memory and  
being configured for comparing a viewer indicator with viewing profiles to identify an active  
viewing profile and a content-based indicator with the active viewing profile, the logic unit  
being further configured for generating a control signal in response to the comparison between  
the content-based indicator and the viewing profiles; and

a signal impairment mechanism coupled to the logic unit and configured for, based on the control signal, selectively passing a program signal therethrough without substantial impairment or passing the program signal therethrough with substantial impairment.

5       23.     The device of claim 22 wherein the viewer monitoring system comprising a facial recognition system.

      24.     The device of claim 23 wherein the facial recognition system comprises a computer configured to run a facial recognition program and a camera coupled to the computer.

      25.     The device of claim 22 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer specification.

10       26.     The device of claim 22, further comprising an output device coupled to the signal impairment mechanism for transforming the program signal into the user discernible information.

      27.     The device of claim 22, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.

15       28.     The device of claim 22, wherein the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specifications and associated content-based specifications.

      29.     The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the program signal carries the content-based indicator, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator.

20       30.     The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the signal impairment device is a switch.

      31.     The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the output device is a television system audio/video output device.

25       32.     The consumer electronics device of claim 22 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification, a finite time range specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer and time range specifications.

      33.     The consumer electronics device of claim 22, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer, time range and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.

34. The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specifications and associated time range and content-based specifications.

35. The consumer electronics device of claim 23, wherein the program signal carries  
5 the content-based indicator and timing information, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator and timing information.